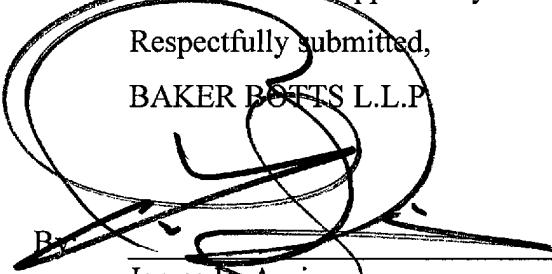


Remarks:

Applicants are amending claim 7, so that this claim is not in multiple dependent form. Further, Applicants are adding new claims 8-11 to capture the subject matter removed by the amendments to claim 7. The purpose of these amendments is to reduce the fees associated with the filing of this application, without narrowing the scope of the claims of this application. No new matter is added by these amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments. Based on the claims remaining after entry of this Preliminary Amendment, no multiple dependent claim fee is due, and no excess claim fees are due. In the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit any such variance to the Undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Conclusion:

Applicants respectfully submit that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicants' representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity.



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